

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 14426 251551Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /024 W
-----049331 260542Z /10
R 251559Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8036

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 14426

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, BE
SUBJECT: MERIDIAN ENTERPRISES INC.

REF: BRUSSELS 14085

1. MERIDIAN US-BASED LAWYER HALPERIN TELEPHONED EMBASSY JULY 25 TO DISCUSS FIRM'S CURRENT THINKING AS TO POSSIBLE FURTHER LITIGATION AND TO CONFIRM INFORMATION ON SALE BY RECEIVER OF COMPANY'S ASSETS. WE TOLD HALPERIN THAT UNITED CALIFORNIA BANK HAD LEARNED THAT INVENTORY HAD BEEN SOLD BEFORE JUNE 23 FOR BF 2,420,000. OF THIS SUM, BF 580,000 HAS ALREADY BEEN PAID TO CIE. MERZ WHICH RENTED SPACE FOR STORAGE OF COMPANY'S GOODS KEPT BY RECEIVER. RECEIVER IS HOLDING BF 1,840,000. OFFICIAL REPORT IS NOT YET ON HAND.

2. HALPERIN STATED THAT HE PLANNED TO VISIT BRUSSELS IN ORDER TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITY OF INITIATING LAW SUIT AGAINST RECEIVER AND AGAINST THE BELGIAN STATE FOR DAMAGES (SEE REFTEL). MERIDIAN'S LOCAL LAWYER VERY MUCH DOUBTS WHETHER BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE TO PAYMENT OF SUCH DAMAGES EVEN IF COURT SHOULD SO RULE. HALPERIN WOULD STRONGLY PREFER SEEKING A SETTLEMENT OUT-OF-COURT AND ASKED THAT EMBASSY ON FORMAL BASIS ARRANGE FOR APPOINTMENT FOR HIM WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL IN JUSTICE MINISTRY. WE
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 14426 251551Z

SUGGESTED THAT HE DISCUSS THIS APPROACH WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICER WITH WHOM HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH. HE SAID HE WOULD CALL DEPARTMENT IN EARLY AUGUST.

3. WE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO SETTING UP APPOINTMENT INFORMALLY FOR HALPERIN WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY OR JUSTICE MINISTRY BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD BE PLACED IN

POSITION OF ENDORSING MERIDIAN'S POSITION.

4. DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
CHAMBERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: LITIGATION, COURTS
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Draft Date: 25 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: EINV, BE, MERIDIAN ENTERPRISES INC
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